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NEW "ISOLATIONIST" MOVEMENT

The Hour learns that a movement is under way to bring together and coordinate the activities of scattered Coughlinite groups and other pro-fascist elements in the New York area. The most recent evidence of this movement was a secret conference of diehard isolationists and admirers of Father Charles E. Coughlin, held on the evening of October 3, 1942, at 10 Park Avenue, New York City.

Ten Park Avenue happens to be the home address of Dr. Edward T. Curran, who manufactures and sells a special scalp medicine under the title of "Dr. Curran's System of Home Hair Treatment." In addition to this, Dr. Curran, who is also an attorney, has acted as the legal representative of the Paul Revere Sentinels, a fascist anti-Semitic organization frequently mentioned in this newsletter.

Among those who attended the secret conference at Dr. Curran's home on October 3rd were Thomas J. Duffy, who claims to be a personal friend of Father Coughlin and who was the Queens County distributor of Coughlin's seditious publication *Social Justice* (barred from the U. S. mails on April 14, 1942); and Mrs. Ida Cooper, the Eastern "representative" of the anti-Semitic propagandist Elizabeth Dilling now facing trial on charges of sedition and conspiracy.

The Society for Constitutional Education

Dr. Curran, Mr. Duffy and Mrs. Cooper form the nucleus of a group which apparently desires to continue its "isolationist" propaganda activities in wartime. One of the purposes of the conference at Dr. Curran's home was to discuss ways of promoting an organization called the Society for Constitutional Education. This organization was founded in July for the ostensible purpose of "safeguarding the Constitution of the United States." It is in many ways a "respectable" duplicate of Joseph Kamp's Constitutional Educational League, which was named by the Department of Justice as one of several organizations used in a plot to sabotage morale in the U. S. armed forces.

When the Society for Constitutional Education made its first appearance in July, word quickly got around in Christian Front circles that the real aim of the Society was to unite remnants of the America First Committee and the Christian Front behind a new facade. Former

militant Coughlinites promptly associated themselves with the Society. By the fall of this year, the new organization was already claiming a membership of 1800, and was announcing an ambitious program which was to include:

"... small group discussion, round table conferences, radio talks, organization literature, newspaper and magazine articles, various and sundry other means of bringing to the American people economic and political truths."

Mr. Duffy was one of the original founders of the Society for Constitutional Education. Co-founders with him were Scoville Hamlin, who describes himself as an "economist" and who was an orator for the America First Committee; and a Mr. Thomas P. Smith, a commercial artist by profession.

Headquarters and sole offices of the Society for Constitutional Education are located at Rooms 1004 and 103, Stratford Hotel, 11 East 32nd Street, New York City. Rooms 1004 and 103 are occupied respectively by Messrs. Hamlin and Smith. Several meetings of small, select groups have taken place on Monday nights in these hotel rooms; but *The Hour* learns that the more ambitious program of the Society has yet to be launched. At the present time, Mr. Duffy is seeking prominent persons formerly sympathetic to the Coughlinite cause to act as sponsors for the new organization.

Still in its formative stages, the Society for Constitutional Education now represents little more than a name. But the fact that such notorious subversivists as Mrs. Ida Cooper are consulting with this organization, indicates that this movement will bear close watching.

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NEW BOOK BY JOHANNES STEEL

On October 26 Sheridan House will publish an important book, *Men Behind the War, A Who's Who of Our Time* by Johannes Steel, well-known radio news-commentator, author and member of the Editorial Board of *The Hour*. The book is a brilliantly conceived and challenging history of the march of events which led from the Treaty of Versailles to the present world conflict.

Written in the form of a series of vivid and enlightening character-studies of more than seventy of the outstanding public figures of our time, *Men Behind the War* gives an inside picture of world events in the making and of the personalities and secrets of the men who shape these events. This is a book which will bring to the public real understanding of the issues at stake in this war of survival. Readers of *The Hour* will find of particular interest Mr. Steel's trenchant comments on the personalities behind Nazism and Fascism.

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SEDITIONOUS KENTUCKY PUBLICATION

A seditious newspaper by the name of Mount Sterling Gazette and Kentucky Courier is being published regularly at Mount Sterling, Kentucky. Edited by one W. Hoffman Wood, and owned by a Mrs. Hattie L. Wood and a Mrs. E. J. Manning, the newspaper is circulating Axis propaganda aimed at sowing dissension among the American people, undermining their morale and thereby impeding the war effort.

Scurrilous anti-Semitic material abounds in the Gazette. A typical editorial in a recent issue of the paper is headed: "Jews are Running and Ruining This One-Time 'Land of the Free and Home of the Brave' -- A Change Must Be Made and That Change Should Come Now." Another editorial -- in the September 11 issue of the Gazette -- is entitled: "The Roosevelt Administration Loaded With Jews." This editorial contains comments like the following:

"The Roosevelt Administration is loaded with Jews, and they are, in reality, helping the Administration in overthrowing the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights. From authoritative sources we learn that President Roosevelt has 72 advisers around him, and that of that number 52 are Jews."

Another characteristically Nazi-propaganda passage reads:

"It is a sad thing for this Nation, once known as the Land of the Free, being run by a lot of Jews, Labor Racketeers and Bureaucratic and Alphabetical Organizations, none of which are competent -- from the heads down -- to buy a suit of clothes for the kiddies or know the difference between the Star Spangled Banner and the German Flag."

The Hour urges that the Federal authorities put an immediate end to this insidious pro-Axis propaganda activity by suppressing the Mount Sterling Gazette and Kentucky Courier.

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ILLUSTRIOUS DUNDERHEADS

Among the most interesting books recently published is The Illustrious Dunderheads (Knopf, \$1.75), edited by Rex Stout and with an introduction by Frank Sullivan. The book, which is warmly recommended to readers of The Hour, is a compilation of extracts from speeches by congressmen whose opinions and voting records previous to Pearl Harbor were, to say the least, far from helpful to this country's defense preparations. The volume is illustrated with a number of excellent cartoons by the artist William Gropper.

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CASE OF ROBERT JORDAN

On August 23, 1941, The Hour carried a front-page story revealing that fascist agents were engaged in a conspiracy to spread pro-Axis propaganda among the Negro people in Harlem, although -- we pointed out -- their subversive efforts were making little headway among the Negro people. "The purpose of such fifth column activity," we wrote, "which seeks unscrupulously to capitalize upon legitimate grievances of the Negroes, is to split Americans into opposing camps, white against black, and thus to weaken the country as a whole and hamper the defense effort." Among the agents we named as being involved in this Axis plot was Robert Jordan, head of the so-called Ethiopian Pacific League, Inc., a "nationalist" (fascist) organization.

When United States Attorney Mathias F. Correa recently announced the indictment and arrest of five Axis agents on charges of conspiring to overthrow the United States Government and of spreading Japanese propaganda, Robert Jordan, whose subversive efforts were first exposed in this newsletter, was named as one of the individuals taken into custody.

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CASE OF DOMENICO TROMBETTA

On Tuesday, September 29, the press announced that Domenico Trombetta, editor and publisher of Il Grido Della Stirpe (The Cry of the Race) "Weekly of Fascist Propaganda," had been divested of his U. S. citizenship and seized by the FBI as a dangerous enemy alien. We have carried a number of articles in The Hour revealing that Trombetta was one of the key fascist propagandists in the United States, that he worked in intimate contact with official representatives of the Italian Fascist Government in this country and abroad, and that he helped organize fifth column groups in the United States (among the latter the Fascist League of North America).

Worth mentioning at this time of Trombetta's arrest are the following facts:

1) On April 20, 1939, Senator Robert R. Reynolds, now chairman of the Senate Military Affairs Committee, incorporated in the Congressional Record (on page 6317) propaganda supplied him by Domenico Trombetta. When he incorporated this material in the Record, Reynolds himself said that this material came from Trombetta and had originally appeared in Il Grido Della Stirpe. The propaganda was of an extreme fascist character and strongly anti-Semitic.

2) For some time Il Grido Della Stirpe carried the subtitle "Weekly of Fascist Propaganda"; and during this period it had on its masthead a quotation from a speech by Mussolini. In 1941 the quotation from Il Duce was dropped from the masthead. It was replaced by a quotation from a speech by Senator Burton K. Wheeler.

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